



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Motorola Completes 7.4 Upgrade

By Mark Adams Mark.E.Adams@ngc.com

A Motorola team successfully upgraded the Master Controller in Helena to Version 7.4 this week, another critical component in the progression of the IM Project. With extensive planning by the Motorola team and by working closely with Lewis and Clark County and Interoperability Montana, the conversion was executed without incident.

Congratulations go to Undersheriff Leo Dutton, the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office, Todd Matsuo, Motorola, and the rest of the Motorola team for a job well done!

IM Finance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Finance Committee met on Monday, July 14 and addressed several finance issues related to various Decision/Information Requests (DIRs). The DIR pertaining to upgrading infrastructure at the Big Mountain site was tabled until funding becomes available. Another DIR relating to infrastructure improvements at Blacktail was approved. Three DIRs related to a tower vendors' change orders also were tabled, and a letter will be sent to the contractor to clarify contract provisions.

Another DIR related to conducting a tower engineering study that is needed for the Stark Armory Tower was reviewed and funding approved. A tower study at the Lost Creek site also was tabled, because other monies may be available to fund it. The committee also reviewed and approved a DIR to fund infrastructure improvements at the BNSF Sites at King, Blue and Pinkham.

Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being written for the distribution of FY08-09 State funds. The Finance Committee also reviewed and approved a draft of the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program proposal that Wing Spooner wrote.

Due to time constraints, the rest of the agenda items were postponed to the next meeting of the Finance Committee, which is scheduled for Monday, August 4 at the offices of Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ), 828 Great Northern Blvd., in Helena, from 9:00 to noon.

IM Governance Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Governance Committee met in Helena on Mon., July 14. Chair Bill Fleiner reported that about 20 applications had been received for the Executive Director position by the July 3 deadline. A human resource firm, Communication and Management Services, LLC (CMS) has been hired to provide assistance with screening applicants, conducting background checks, and

facilitating board interviews.

Copies of a fleet mapping proposal were distributed, and the IMPD agreed to move forward on it. Bill reported that the issue of sustainability has become a concern and a draft long-term funding plan will be presented to the IMPD in Sept.

FEMA has notified IM Project Management that the IM needs to provide additional NEPA information as described in Information Bulletin (IB) 271. This process will add another layer to planning processes as well as additional expenses, estimated at between \$10,000 and \$50,000 per site.

Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, reported that the contract issues related to the RFP for tower and site development procurement had been resolved, and highlighted other work that is underway.

Bill Fleiner reported that the RFP for Project Management has been released. A face-to-face meeting was held with potential vendors and a Question and Answer session conducted. The successful contractor for IM Project Management will be selected by Sept.

Members were updated on the status of two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) that are being drafted. The next IM Governance Committee meeting is set for Mon., Aug. 4 at the Dept. of Corrections (DOC) Annex Conference Room located behind 515 N. Sanders St. beginning at 12:30 pm.

IM Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on July 15 for its monthly meeting. IMPD Chair Alan Michaels announced that the Executive Committee signed off on the transfer of two contracts to the IMPD. Sheriff John Walsh gave the report on the IM Finance Committee. Irene Bushnell, the IM Project's new Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ) Account Executive, was introduced. She reviewed three budget sheets.

Wing Spooner, PSSB, reviewed the 2008 Interoperable Emergency Communications (IEC) grant, and members endorsed it. The board also approved the COPS Grant Subscriber Unit Distribution Plan recommended by the IM Finance and Governance Committees. IM Governance Chair Bill Fleiner gave the Governance report.

IM Technical Committee Chair Bob McWilliams described the June 23 IMTC meeting, and sub-committee reports on frequencies, network design, encryption and dispatch connectivity were presented.

Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reviewed the IM status report, and emphasized the volume of activity going on in the state. The IMPD approved funding infrastructure upgrades at the Blacktail site. Funding also was approved to purchase the correct sized antenna cables for the Mac Pass site.



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Dave Hinds, Project Manager, reported that efforts are underway to resolve challenges associated with securing partnership agreements with the U.S. Air Force (USAF).

The next IMPD meeting is at 9:00 am on Tuesday, August 5, at the State Capitol.

IM and Montana Representatives Meet With Customs and Border Projection

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

Representatives from the Havre and Spokane Sectors Border Patrol Headquarters (Customs and Border Protection), the Office of Information Technology (OIT), Public Safety Services Bureau and the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project met in Great Falls on Thurs., July 17. The meeting was the result of conversations initiated at the Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWB) confab in April and subsequent meetings with the Spokane Sector which focused on the deployment of the IM system along the Canadian border and potential interest for interfacing with Customs and Border Protection.

The Northern Tier Consortium will be turning on its trunked radio system in stages during the later part of 2008 and early 2009. This system, with the associated digital microwave path, will provide communications resources to the region not previously available. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) obviously has interest in the region due to its mission to safeguard the Nation's borders.

PSSB and IM representatives gave a presentation which included a significant two-way discussion about operational requirements, system capabilities and exploration of areas of cooperation. State of Montana CIO Dick Clark emphasized the state's commitment to the IM Project and the goals for cooperation in deploying a joint public safety system. IM Project Directors Chair Chief Alan Michaels provided a perspective of joint development of interoperable systems under the IM, along with the commitments to the project that have brought success to this point. The IM and State of Montana interoperability project plans and communication goals were reviewed.

Undersheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis and Clark County, provided a history of Concept Demonstration Project #1, and provided a very helpful example of operational cooperation with a recent rescue incident conducted in cooperation with Border Patrol air assets. Border Patrol and OIT personnel Rudy Karisch, Spokane Deputy Sector Chief, Chris Richards, Havre Deputy Sector Chief, and Brenna Neinast, Havre Sector Chief, discussed technical and operational needs in the region, and brainstormed options for cooperation.

As in many cooperative arrangements, significant hurdles must be addressed and considered. Both the CBP and the State of Montana will pursue coordination

activities with CBP, OIC and Congressional representatives to move the process forward. All organizations involved in this meeting agreed that it was very helpful and pledged to explore all avenues for CBP system use or interface in the future. The hope is that further discussion will lead to cooperative agreement and use of the IM System similar to other federal agencies.

Upcoming Meetings

July 21

Tri-County Consortium

Helena • 10:00 am

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

July 22 – NOTE: Meeting Cancelled

Western Interoperability Comm. Consortium (WICC)

July 28

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am • State Capitol • Room 172

August 4

IM Finance Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - Noon

Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

August 4

IM Governance Committee

Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

August 5

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol

August 6

South Central Consortium (SCMIC)

Big Timber • 10:00 am

City County Library, 4th Street and McLeod

August 7

Northern Tier (NTIP)

Havre • 9:00 am • Havre, 9:00 am

Great Northern Inn; 1345 1st St.

August 13

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)

Lewistown • 10:00 am

Location to be Announced

August 20

Eastern Tier Consortium (ETIC)

Glendive • 10:00 am

Law Enforcement Center; 440 Colorado Blvd.

August 21

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

August 25

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium

Bozeman • 10:00 am

City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

August 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium

Roundup • 10:00 am • Location to be Announced